IHE Report

Health Technology Assessment on the Net

Tenth Edition

June 2008

IHE INSTITUTE OF
HEALTH ECONOMICS
ALBERTA CANADA

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT ON THE NET: A GUIDE TO INTERNET SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Tenth Edition

Prepared by:

Liz Dennett, MLIS
Trish Chatterley, MLIS

Acknowledgements

Numerous contributors have been involved with this publication over the years. We would like to acknowledge the substantial contributions of Leigh-Ann Topfer and Liza Chan to the creation and many revisions of this publication. Seana Collins and Janice Varney are also valued past contributors.

Many thanks to Damen Cole for his assistance in developing the bookmarks file and to Wendy McIndoo for editing the final document.

Preface to the Tenth Edition

The Tenth Edition of this guide marks the first time the guide is being produced solely by the Institute of Health Economics (IHE), completing a move from the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR). We would like to thank all of the AHFMR staff that worked so hard on this guide for many years, particularly Liza Chan.

This version includes some minor changes. We have tried as much as possible to match this guide to the searching process followed by the IHE Information Specialists when doing a comprehensive search for the production of a Health Technology Assessment report. While the sources we search do change depending on relevance to a particular topic, this is the complete list of resources from which we choose when designing a search. As such we have expanded a number of sections, such as Bibliographic Databases and Complementary and Alternative Medicine, to include all of the resources that we find useful.

We continue to provide a "bookmarks" file to accompany the guide. The bookmarks can be downloaded from the IHE website (http://www.ihe.ca) into your "Favorites" on your web browser.

Selection criteria

The sites contained within this publication have been chosen for their usefulness in our HTA literature searches. Though there are no formal selection criteria, the sites usually meet most of the following:

—— Developed by non-profit agencies (such as government funded organizations and universities) = **authority and reliability**;

—— Updated regularly (with the exception of some sites which have been included for historical purposes) = **currency**;

—— Contains valuable information for health technology assessment = **applicability**;

—— The bibliographic databases generally contain peer-reviewed studies; the health technology assessment and evidence-based health sources generally follow accepted methods for ensuring the comprehensiveness, transparency, and reliability of the methods used in their systematic reviews = **validity**;

—— Most of these sites are fairly easy to navigate and search = **usability**.

The validity of our selections has not been formally tested. Readers should use their own critical appraisal skills to judge the quality of the information they find on these websites. Many guides to assessing the quality of health information on the Internet are available, for example: the *HON Code of Conduct (HONcode) for medical and health Web sites* (http://www.hon.ch/HONcode/Conduct.html).

Arrangement of resources in this guide

In an attempt to keep the size of this guide manageable, we have placed each resource under only one section, even though many of the resources could be legitimately placed under multiple sections.

Using evidence from qualitative research has gained momentum in the past decade and we have made an effort to include qualitative research sources into this guide. Instead of dedicating a specific section to qualitative research, we have interspersed sites with strong qualitative evidence into the existing sections.

Table of Contents

■ Introduction

The foundation for any health technology assessment (HTA) is information. In fact, health technology assessment is the synthesis of many pieces of information from many different sources. The purpose of an HTA is to provide health care decision-makers with the evidence they need to make informed decisions concerning the introduction, allocation and cost effective use of medical technologies.

Since its beginnings in the United States in the early 1970s, health technology assessment has expanded throughout the world. This growth has been accompanied by the development of many useful sources for HTA information. Some of these sources are produced by government and HTA agencies, while others are the products of centres involved in advancing evidence-based health care, such as the international Cochrane Collaboration.

Although a few of these resources were available in pre-Internet days, the Internet has had a tremendous impact on the amount of information available to us. However, as with all searches on the web, the quantity of information can be overwhelming, and information from some websites may be biased, out-of-date or of poor quality. The key to efficient searching is to know where reliable and relevant information can most often be found.

This guide focuses on Internet sites, particularly those that may be useful for people involved in health care in Alberta, Canada, but health technology assessments will also incorporate data from other sources. These may include specialized bibliographic databases relevant to the subject of the assessment; data from government and regulatory agencies; administrative databases; industry studies, and advice from experts in the field. Traditional print resources, such as medical textbooks, may also provide background information. These sources will vary depending on the subject and scope of the assessment.

Typically, a literature search for a technology assessment will begin with the major biomedical databases, such as PubMed, and with searches to determine if other HTA agencies have already assessed this technology. Such information is now easily accessible, via the Internet, at the sites listed in this guide.

■ Free Bibliographic Databases

PubMed

The US National Library of Medicine (NLM)'s free search interface provides access to over 17 million citations covering biomedical literature back to the 1950s in MEDLINE, PreMEDLINE (in process citations), OLDMEDLINE, and publisher supplied records: **http://pubmed.gov.** The Special Queries feature uses filters and hedges to help focus PubMed searches for Systematic Reviews, Health Services Research, Clinical Queries, etc.: **http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/special_queries.html**

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD)

This UK centre provides several databases: **http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/crddatabases.htm**

—— *Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Database:* reports from INAHTA members and other HTA agencies

—— *NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED):* published economic evaluations of health care interventions

—— *Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE):* reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions

—— *Ongoing Reviews Database:* ongoing systematic reviews in health care

AgeLine

"Social gerontology" studies, including health research, on adults aged 50+: **http://www.aarp.org/research/ageline**

The Campbell Collaboration Library

Systematic reviews of social, behavioral and educational interventions and registers of randomized controlled trials (C2 SPECTR and C2-PROT) can also be accessed here: **http://www.campbellcollaboration.org**

ERIC

Database of the Educational Resources Information Center includes health-related educational information: **http://eric.ed.gov**

Google Scholar

An easy way to broadly search for scholarly literature. It contains citation information as well: **http://scholar.google.com**

OTseeker

Abstracts of critically appraised systematic reviews and randomized controlled trials relevant to occupational therapy: **http://www.otseeker.com**

PEDro

Physiotherapy Evidence Database from the Centre for Evidence-Based Physiotherapy (CEBP): **http://www.pedro.fhs.usyd.edu.au**

Health-Evidence.ca

Searchable online database of systematic reviews of public health and health promotion interventions: **http://health-evidence.ca/articles/search**

■ Library Catalogues and Book Databases

Amicus, The Canadian National Catalogue

Includes all titles in the National Library and many other Canadian libraries. *Tip: If you have a complex search, quickly create an account and log in so that you can do command searching:* **http://www.collectionscanada.ca/amicus**

Theses Canada

A central access point for Canadian theses. Full text of digitized theses and dissertations are available from 1998 on: **http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/thesescanada/**

British Library

The national library of the United Kingdom and one of the world's greatest libraries. They also provide worldwide document delivery service (for a fee): **http://www.bl.uk**

LocatorPlus

The library catalogue for the National Library for Medicine (NLM): **http://locatorplus.gov/**

WorldCat

Includes over 1 billion items from more than 60,000 libraries worldwide. Useful to discover if the library near you has the book you are looking for: **http://www.worldcat.org**

Your local library catalogue

Good idea to search the catalogues of the academic, institutional (e.g. hospital) or scientific libraries to which you have access.

Amazon.com

Although a commercial enterprise, Amazon is also a very large book database that is a useful tool to discover the existence of books on a particular subject. Searching is free and you might be able to find the book at your local library or through interlibrary loan: **http://amazon.com.**

■ Fee-Based Bibliographic Databases ($$$)

Many other databases are available through commercial vendors, such as Dialog (**http://www.dialogweb.com**), OVID Technologies (**http://www.ovid.com**), and others. Charges (($$$)) are usually involved for searching these databases, or they may be available through your organization's library, or local university, public or health care libraries. Check with your librarian for information on access to these sources. Other specialized databases, covering biomedical engineering, drug information, occupational health and safety, etc., are also available through these vendors.

The Cochrane Library ($$$)

The source for quality systematic reviews of health care interventions; includes several databases (listed below). Abstracts are freely available but subscription is required for full access (most health libraries have subscriptions; some countries and provinces have national/provincial provisions or special schemes with the publisher to make it available in their jurisdictions. Updated quarterly: **http://www.thecochranelibrary.com**

In the Wiley InterScience search interface, the different databases are given simpler names, which are shown in parentheses below:

— *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane Reviews)* – access the full text of systematic reviews and in-process protocols.
— *Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Clinical Trials)* – references to over 500,000 clinical trials.
— *Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) (Other Reviews)* – reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions prepared by the UK Centre for Reviews and Dissemination.
— *The NHS Economic Evaluation Database (Economic Evaluations)* – published economic evaluations of health care interventions.
— *Health Technology Assessment Database (Technology Assessments)* – reports from INAHTA members and other HTA agencies.
— *Cochrane Methodology Register (Methods Studies)* – references on how to conduct systematic reviews.
— *About The Cochrane Collaboration (Cochrane Groups)* – information on the aims and scope of the individual Cochrane Review Groups, Methods Groups, Fields, and Networks.

EMBASE ($$$)

A database covering international literature in the fields of biomedical sciences and pharmacology: **http://www.embase.com**

CINAHL ($$$)

The Cumulated Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, CINAHL is also useful for coverage of the literature on occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and alternative medicine: **http://www.cinahl.com**

Academic Search Complete ($$$)

A large interdisciplinary database, particularly useful for topics that bridge into the humanities, economics, or social sciences: **http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=633**

BIOSIS Previews ($$$)

Covers the field of biological sciences, including medicine. It indexes journal articles, meeting and conference reports, books and patents. Consider searching here for information on new research, pharmaceuticals and emerging technologies: **http://www.biosis.org**

Web of Science ($$$)

This is a large interdisciplinary database that is particularly useful for topics that have Social Sciences or Humanities components. While the lack of good indexing makes it harder to search, the added feature of citation linking makes this database very useful: **http://scientific.thomson.com/products/wos/**

PsycINFO ($$$)

Literature in the fields of psychology, psychiatry and behavioural sciences. Consider searching here for information on health-related quality of life, mental health therapies and programs, psychiatric drug assessments, etc.: **http://www.apa.org/psycinfo**

Scopus ($$$)

Another large interdisciplinary database that indexes over 15,000 peer-reviewed journals and includes patents from 4 patent offices (US, WIPO, European and Japanese). It also provides references to conference proceedings and books, and citation information similar to Web of Science: **http://www.scopus.com**

Sociological Abstracts ($$$)

International literature in the fields of sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioural sciences. Books, book chapters, dissertations, and conference papers are indexed in addition to journal literature: **http://www.csa.com/factsheets/socioabs-set-c.php**

Social Services Abstracts ($$$)

Coverage of research on social work, human services, social welfare, social policy, and community development: **http://www.csa.com/factsheets/ssa-set-c.php**

International Pharmaceutical Abstracts ($$$)

Created by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, covers international literature in pharmaceutical science, applied pharmacology, and health related literature: **http://scientific.thomson.com/products/ipa/**

ABI Inform ($$$)

Comprehensive coverage of business and management publications with many titles available in full-text. Several database options from which to choose based on size (number of titles covered) and associated cost: **http://www.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/abi_inform.shtml**

SocINDEX ($$$)

Comprehensive coverage of sociology and such subdisciplines as demography, gender studies, social psychology, and substance abuse. Includes indexing of journals, books, and conference papers: **http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=138**

PAIS International ($$$)

References to journal articles, books, government documents, statistical directories, grey literature, research and conference reports, and more. International coverage representing over 120 countries from around the world. Subject coverage is varied, but includes many health related issues such as AIDS, assisted suicide, genetic engineering, drug testing, etc.: **http://www.csa.com/factsheets/pais-set-c.php**

Proquest Dissertation and Theses ($$$)

The most comprehensive collection of theses and dissertations, with over 2.4 million indexed from around the world. Approximately half are available for full-text download. Covers a wide variety of research fields: **http://www.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/pqdt.shtml**

■ Canadian HTA Sites

Agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé (AETMIS)

Quebec's provincial HTA agency. AETMIS reports are usually first published in French, and later translated into English: **http://www.aetmis.gouv.qc.ca/site/home.phtml**

British Columbia Centre for Health Services and Policy Research

Includes reports of various policy topics and is the repository of the former BC Office of Health Technology Assessment (BCOHTA): **http://www.chspr.ubc.ca**

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)

Canada's national HTA agency publishes their assessments in both English and French, in print and on their website: **http://www.cadth.ca**

Effective Public Health Practice Project (EPHPP)

Systematic reviews in public health produced by the Public Health Research, Education and Development (PHRED) Program, in Ontario: **http://www.hamilton.ca/PHCS/EPHPP**

Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences (ICES)

Ontario's health services and utilization research agency: **http://www.ices.on.ca**

Institute for Work and Health (IWH)

A not-for-profit organization that publishes systematic reviews related to workplace injury prevention and treatments: **http://www.iwh.on.ca**

Institute of Health Economics (IHE)

Formerly part of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, the HTA unit moved to IHE in July 2006, and is the Alberta provincial HTA agency: **http://www.ihe.ca**

Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)

Established in 2001 to advise the MUHC hospitals on HTA issues: **http://www.mcgill.ca/tau/**

Ontario Medical Advisory Secretariat & Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (OHTAC)

Evaluates health technologies and provides evidence-based policy advice on the uptake of new health technologies and health services to the ministry and other government agencies. The website provides online access to their Technology & Policy Reviews and Recommendations: **http://www.health.gov. on.ca/english/providers/program/ohtac/tech/techlist_mn.html**

Therapeutics Initiative

Evidence-based drug assessments from the British Columbia Therapeutics Initiative: **http://www.ti.ubc.ca**

WorkSafeBC (the Workers' Compensation Board of BC)

Systematic reviews and presentations produced and collection by the Evidence Based Work Group: **http://www.worksafebc.com/health_care_providers/ related_information/evidence_based_medicine/default.asp**

■ International HTA Sites

We have not attempted to list all the international HTA agencies below. Information on most of these agencies and links to their websites can be found through the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) website. The *HTA Database* (**http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/crddatabases.htm**) indexes most reports from HTA agencies. The sites below have additional features or information that may not be indexed in the HTA Database.

International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA)

INAHTA members include the main publicly funded HTA agencies worldwide. The site includes links to the member agencies (47 HTA agencies from 23 countries are currently members): **http://www.inahta.org**

Health Technology Assessment – International (HTAi)

HTAi is the association for individuals and agencies involved in health technology assessment and hosts the major international conference in this area. Useful for the conference abstracts and also the host of the Vortal of HTA information: **http://www.htai.org**

EUnetHTA (European Network for Health Technology Assessment)

Coordinates the HTA efforts of 28 European countries: **http://www.eunethta.net**

EuroScan (European Information Network on New and Changing Health Technologies)

Information on new and emerging health technologies. (Look under the Technology Reports section for a subset of the publications available to non-EuroScan members): **http://www.euroscan.bham.ac.uk**

Health Evidence Network (HEN)

A WHO site that provides assessments of public health interventions for health care decision-makers: **http://www.euro.who.int/HEN**

Australia – Australia and New Zealand Horizon Scanning Network (ANZHSN)

The network provides advance notice of significant new and emerging technologies to health departments in Australia and New Zealand, and to exchange information and evaluate the potential impact of emerging technologies on their respective health systems: **http://www.horizonscanning.gov.au**

Australia – Australian Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (ASERNIPS)

Assessments of surgical procedures **http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s** and a "horizon scanning" (NET-S) database which tracks and assesses new and emerging surgical procedures: **http://www.surgeons.org/Content/ NavigationMenu/Research/ASERNIPS/ASERNIPSNETS/default.htm**

Australia – Medical Services Advisory Committee

Assessments relating to safety, effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness of new medical technologies and procedures: **http://www.msac.gov.au/**

Australia – Joanna Briggs Institute ($$$)

Systematic reviews related to allied health and nursing. Some publications are free, but membership required for full access to others: **http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au**

New Zealand – New Zealand Health Technology Assessment

A clearinghouse for health outcomes and health technology assessment. Contains systematic reviews, technical briefs, and evidence tables: **http://nzhta.chmeds.ac.nz/publications.htm**

Sweden – Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care (SBU)

Assessment of healthcare technology from medical, economic, ethical, and social standpoints. Most full reports are in Swedish but English summaries are usually provided: **http://www.sbu.se/en/**

UK – Health Evidence Bulletins – Wales

Assessments of health care interventions and a useful project methodology guide for health technology assessment: **http://hebw.uwcm.ac.uk**

UK – National Horizon Scanning Centre

Emerging health technology assessment briefs (look under the section titled Outputs to find these publications): **http://www.pcpoh.bham.ac.uk/publichealth/horizon**

UK – National Health Technology Assessment Programme

The website of the UK national office for HTA has a useful database of published and in progress research and the full text of their assessment reports: **http://www.ncchta.org**

UK – National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Technology Appraisals

Recommendations on the use of new and existing medicines and treatments within the NHS in England and Wales:
http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byType&type=6

UK – NHS Centre for Evidence-based Purchasing

Provides objective evidence to support the uptake of useful, safe, innovative products and procedures in health and social care
http://www.pasa.nhs.uk/PASAWeb/NHSprocurement/CEP

US – HSTAT (Health Services/Technology Assessment Text)

Full text HTA reports, practice guidelines, consumer information and consensus statements from US government agencies:
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=hstat

US – Aetna Inc.

Bulletins to inform coverage decisions on medical technologies, procedures and pharmaceuticals:
http://www.aetna.com/about/cov_det_policies.html

US – Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

US federal government technology assessments and research on healthcare outcomes, quality, costs, utilization and access: http://www.ahrq.gov

US – Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) Association. Technology Evaluation Center (TEC)

Assessment reports and information on assessments currently underway:
http://www.bcbs.com/tec

US – California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP)

Assessments of medical technologies in relation to health insurance legislation and coverage in the state of California: http://www.chbrp.org/

US – California Technology Assessment Forum (CTAF)

A program of the Blue Shield of California Foundation, this forum is dedicated to dialog and decisions regarding the safety and effectiveness of new and emerging technologies: http://www.ctaf.org

US – ECRI ($$$)

An independent non-profit health services research agency. ECRI focuses on healthcare technology, healthcare risk and quality management, patient safety improvement and healthcare environmental management. Reports and other publications can be searched in the HTAIS database which requires a membership to access: http://www.ecri.org

US – Hayes Inc. ($$$)

A company that specializes in HTA. Sample reports and a directory of Hayes' assessments are available free of charge, other publications are available to subscribers or can be purchased individually: **http://www.hayesinc.com**

US – Oregon Drug Effectiveness Review Project

A collaborative project to assess the effectiveness of drugs within the same class: **http://www.ohsu.edu/drugeffectiveness/index.htm**

Regulatory and Coverage Information

Alberta Health and Wellness

The Alberta Government Ministry of Health website, with ministry publications and links to Regional Health Authorities in the province: **http://www.health.gov.ab.ca**

Health Canada

The federal government ministry responsible for health care in Canada **http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca**. Includes useful resources, such as:

—— *Drug Product Database – DPD* for licensed pharmaceuticals:
  http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/tpd-dpt/index_drugs_dpd_e.html
—— *Medical Devices Active Licence Listing (MDALL)* for licensed medical devices: **http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/md-im/licen/mdlic_e.html**

UK – Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

The UK agency which regulates drugs and health technologies: **http://www.medical-devices.gov.uk**

US – Food & Drug Administration (FDA)

The US federal regulatory agency for human and animal drugs, biologics, medical devices and consumer health products: **http://www.fda.gov**

Feature resources include:

—— *Drugs@FDA* **http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda/**
—— *Electronic Orange Book* **http://www.fda.gov/cder/ob/default.htm**
—— *Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) SuperSearch* searches the Premarket Notification (510(k)), Premarket Approval (PMA), etc: **http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/search/search.cfm**

US – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

National and state Medicare coverage database: **http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/search.asp?**

Google

Google seems to do a good job of searching insurance company websites for their policy decisions on health technologies. *Tip: including the word "coverage" in your search can further help to locate this material:*
http://www.google.com

Data and Statistics

Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)

CIHI compiles statistical data about the Canadian health care system, including diagnostic imaging, hospital-based procedures, and population health:
http://www.cihi.ca

Statistics Canada

Canada's national statistical agency. All electronic reports are available free of charge as of April 2006: **http://www.statcan.ca**

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP)

Manitoba's health services and utilization research agency. Source of administrative data: **http://www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp**

Clinical Trials

CCT Current Controlled Trials

Clinical trials, protocols and other information, including the metaRegister of Controlled Trials (mRCT) – an international database combining multiple registries of ongoing controlled trials in healthcare. Does not adequately search clinicaltrials.gov: **http://www.controlled-trials.com**

CenterWatch

A listing of industry-sponsored clinical trials: **http://www.centerwatch.com**

Clinical Study Results

A repository sponsored by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) for clinical study results in a reader-friendly format. This database contains trial results for U.S. marketed pharmaceuticals:
http://clinicalstudyresults.org

ClinicalTrials.gov

A database of clinical trials compiled by the US National Institutes of Health:
http://clinicaltrials.gov

IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal

A single search interface to search for information on on-going or completed clinical trials, provided by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations: **http://www.ifpma.org/clinicaltrials.html**

Canada – National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group

Clinical trials in cancer and supportive care led by the NCIC Clinical Trials Group: **http://www.ctg.queensu.ca**

Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects (CRISP)

A database of US federally funded biomedical research. *Tip: Add "clinical trial" to your search query to retrieve trial information:* **http://crisp.cit.nih.gov**

■ PRACTICE GUIDELINES

In addition to the sites listed below, it is a good idea to check the websites of relevant associations of health care professionals (e.g. Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada) or disease-specific societies (e.g. Canadian Diabetes Association), as they often link to guidelines. *Tip: If there is no obvious link to a guidelines page, try doing a site search (if available) for the term 'guideline'.*

National Guideline Clearinghouse

Probably the most extensive source of clinical practice guidelines: **http://www.guidelines.gov**

Alberta: Toward Optimized Practice

This program succeeds the former Alberta Clinical Practice Guidelines program. It is sponsored by the Alberta Medical Association, Alberta Health and Wellness, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Alberta's Regional Health Authorities: **http://www.topalbertadoctors.org/TOP/CPG**

British Columbia: Guidelines and Protocol Advisory Committee (GPAC)

Clinical practice guidelines and protocols jointly sponsored by the BC Ministry of Health and the BC Medical Association: **http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/gpac**

CMA Infobase Clinical Practice Guidelines

A database of Canadian guidelines compiled by the Canadian Medical Association. *Tip: Keep your search as simple as possible:* **http://mdm.ca/cpgsnew/cpgs**

Cancer Care Ontario

Guidelines and evidence summaries for cancer treatment: **http://www.cancercare.on.ca/english/toolbox/qualityguidelines/**

Guideline Advisory Committee (GAC) (Ontario)

GAC is established by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ontario Medical Association. GAC endorses guidelines following in-depth reviews. Summaries of the guidelines rated most highly and links to all available guidelines are provided: **http://gacguidelines.ca**

Rehabilitation Guidelines

Evidence-based rehabilitation guidelines compiled by the University of Ottawa. *Tip: Must select a field and a category for the search to work:* **http://fss.hs.uottawa.ca/EBCpg/english/search/index.htm**

Guidelines International Network ($$$)

International guideline database with more than 5,000 guidelines, systematic reviews, and evidence reports produced by 76 member organizations from 36 countries around the world. Membership is required to access the guideline database and can lead to collaborative opportunities with other partners. The Health Topics Collection (accessible at **http://www.g-i-n.net/index.cfm?fuseaction=membersarea&fusesubaction=docs&documentID=33**), which contains guidelines for priority health topics, is open to the public: **http://www.g-i-n.net/guidelines/**

New Zealand Guidelines Group

Evidence-based clinical guidelines and consumer guides: **http://www.nzgg.org.nz**

UK National Library for Health (NLH) Guidelines Finder

Database of guidelines produced by NICE and other national agencies: **http://www.library.nhs.uk/guidelinesFinder**

UK Clinical Knowledge Summaries

Provide access to PRODIGY clinical guidance and patient information. *Tip: Access the full text by using the left-side menu:* **http://cks.library.nhs.uk**

UK Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)

Scottish guidelines and guideline development methods: **http://www.sign.ac.uk**

US Comprehensive Cancer Network

Clinical practice guidelines in oncology developed by an alliance of 21 cancer centres: **http://www.nccn.org**

US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)

Recommendations for preventive health services: **http://www.ahcpr.gov/clinic/uspstfix.htm**

■ Evidence Based Resources

The resources listed below act as "filters" for the clinical literature by identifying key studies, particularly systematic reviews that answer important clinical questions. While these sources do not provide any primary research evidence, they can point you to important research that was done in a field. They are also very useful resources if you need a quick answer to a clinical question.

Aggressive Research Intelligence Facility (ARIF)

Summaries of EBM questions and answers from health agencies in the West Midlands, UK: **http://www.arif.bham.ac.uk**

ATTRACT

UK service that provides rapid, evidence-based answers to clinical questions: **http://www.attract.wales.nhs.uk**

Bandolier

Evidence-based health care summaries, links to EBM sites, number needed to treat (NNT) calculators, and more: **http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier**

BestBETs

Brief appraisals of topics in clinical medicine: **http://www.bestbets.org**

Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre

Information on Cochrane review, field and methods groups and affiliated organizations in Canada, health care news, evidence-based medicine training, and e-newsletters about Cochrane Collaboration initiatives: **http://www.ccnc.cochrane.org**

Clinical Evidence ($$$)

A BMJ clinical therapy resource of regularly updated evidence-based summaries, including a useful drug names table: **http://www.clinicalevidence.com**

DynaMed ($$$)

A clinical reference tool with evidence based summaries for nearly 2,000 topics, updated daily. Subscription is through EBSCO: **http://www.dynamicmedical.com**

Evidence Matters ($$$)

A clinical information tool that provides evidence based information on the effectiveness, safety, and costs of therapy options for a particular patient, currently includes over 100,000 outcomes covering 1,300 treatments within the disease modules of oncology, cardiology, endocrine, and metabolic disorders: **http://www.evidencematters.com**

James Lind Library

An online library documenting the history of the assessment of medical interventions: **http://www.jameslindlibrary.org**

Netting the Evidence

A ScHARR Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice on the Internet: Tools, links and resources for critical appraisal and literature searching: **http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/~scharr/ir/netting**

TRIP (Turning Research into Practice) Database

An evidence based site that allows searching across different types of evidence-based products: **http://www.tripdatabase.com**

▓ Complementary & Alternative Medicine

Complementary and alternative medicine includes practices such as acupuncture, chiropractic, herbal medicine, and homeopathy which fall beyond the sphere of conventional medicine. Scientific literature on these topics is often published in a CAM-related subset of academic journals which are not necessarily indexed by the usual databases. CAM therefore has a set of unique resources that should be considered when conducting a literature search for an HTA in this field. The evidence base for CAM has typically been quite weak as it can be difficult to perform high-quality studies in the field, creating additional challenges in finding literature that meets the criteria for conducting HTAs. (See the article "Challenges in Systematic Reviews of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Topics" by Shekelle et al. in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* at **http://www.annals.org/cgi/content/full/142/12_Part_2/1042** for more information). CAM research is becoming more rigorous in its scientific methodology, however, with a Cochrane CAM Field group that oversees the production of systematic reviews and entry of trials into CENTRAL. One must still critically appraise any literature retrieved.

Acubriefs

Comprehensive database of references on acupuncture. Primarily contains references to English articles, but also includes recent translations of abstracts from leading Chinese journals: **http://www.acubriefs.com/**

Alt HealthWatch ($$$)

This alternative health database provides full text for more than 180 publications, including many peer-reviewed journals. Provides in-depth coverage of complementary, holistic, and integrated approaches to health and wellness: **http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?topicID=25&marketID=1**

The Alternative Medicine Homepage

A very useful portal for resources in this field:
http://www.pitt.edu/~cbw/altm.html

AMED (Allied and Complementary Database) ($$$)

Produced by the British Library, this database covers allied, alternative,
and palliative medicine, including such specialties as physiotherapy,
occupational therapy, chiropractic, and herbal medicines:
http://www.bl.uk/collections/health/amed.html

Bandolier Library – Complementary and Alternative Therapies

A collection of best evidence on complementary and alternative health
interventions: http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier/booth/booths/altmed.html

CAMline

An evidence-based website on CAM for healthcare professionals and the
public. Provides peer-reviewed information on the safety and efficacy of CAM
products and therapies. Each section provides an extensive list of references:
http://www.camline.ca/index.html

CINAHL ($$$)

A database to the nursing and allied health literature, this database also indexes
several CAM journals. *Tip: Use the CINAHL heading, "alternative therapies":*
http://www.cinahl.com

Cochrane Library

Contains many CAM-related systematic reviews. *Tip: CAM trials in CENTRAL
can be identified by adding 'SR-COMPMED' as an extra search term:*
http://www.thecochranelibrary.com

Complementary and Alternative Medicine (New Zealand)

An evidence-based resource for complementary and alternative medicine:
http://www.cam.org.nz

Health Canada Natural Health Products Directorate

Canada's governmental agency for the regulation of alternative and herbal
medicines: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/nhpd-dpsn

HerbMedPro ($$$)

An interactive, electronic herbal database providing hyperlinked access to the
scientific data underlying the use of herbs for health. It is an evidence-based
information resource for professionals, researchers, and the general public.
Information on 30 herbs is freely provided to the public, but a subscription
is required to access the entire database: **http://www.herbmed.org/**

Hom-Inform (British Homeopathic Library)

A database of over 25,000 article and book references on homeopathy:
http://hominform.soutron.com/homqbe1.asp

Index to Chiropractic Literature

A gateway to chiropractic literature from 1985 to the present:
http://www.chiroindex.org/search.php#results

International Bibliographic Information on Dietary Supplements (IBIDS) Database

Provides access to bibliographic citations and abstracts from published, international, and scientific literature on dietary supplements:
http://dietary-supplements.info.nih.gov/Health_Information/IBIDS.aspx

MANTIS (Manual Alternative and Natural Therapy Index System) ($$$)

Addresses all areas of alternative medical literature from 1900 to the present. It is the largest index of peer reviewed articles for several disciplines including chiropractic, osteopathy, homeopathy, and manual medicine:
http://www.healthindex.com/MANTISDatabaseOverview.html

Massage Therapy Research Database ($$$)

Contains over 4,800 records including both indexed and non-indexed journal citations. Access PubMed CAM searches from this website:
http://www.massagetherapyfoundation.org/researchdb.html

US National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine

The US agency for the assessment of complementary medicine. Contains a listing of clinical trials: **http://www.nccam.nih.gov**

PubMed

Tip: To limit your PubMed search so that it retrieves only those articles related to CAM, click on the Limits tab and choose "Complementary Medicine" under the Topics section of the Subsets box. Or, go to this page: **http://nccam.nih.gov/camonpubmed/** and click the 'CAM on PubMed' icon: **http://pubmed.gov**

Quackwatch

A non-profit service to combat health-related frauds, myths, fads, and fallacies:
http://www.quackwatch.org

Research Council for Complementary Medicine

A UK research agency for complementary and alternative medicine: http://www.rccm.org.uk Collaborating with other agencies, hospitals and universities, the Council maintains two useful resources:

1. A database, Complementary and Alternative Medicine Evidence On-Line (CAMEOL), contains systematic reviews of CAM evidence: http://www.rccm.org.uk/cameol/Default.aspx

2. National Library for Health: Complementary and Alternative Medicine Specialist Library: http://www.library.nhs.uk/cam

Tufts Evidence Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Curriculum designed to teach medical students EBM skills such as critical appraisal that can be applied in their practice of CAM and allopathic medicine: http://www.tufts.edu/med/ebcam/

■ Health Economics

NHS Economic Evaluation Database

One of the three UK CRD databases: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/crddatabases.htm#NHSEED. Also available on the CRD website is a guide to Information Resources in Health Economics: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/econ.htm

EconLit ($$$)

This database includes information on health economics and economic evaluation of medical technologies. Available through commercial database vendors: http://www.econlit.org

Health Economic Evaluations Database (HEED) ($$$)

A database of health economics literature compiled by the UK Office of Health Economics and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Associations: http://www.ohe-heed.com

Centre for Health Economics, University of York

Research at the Centre includes economic assessments of health technologies: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/che

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA), McMaster University

Working paper publications include many relevant to economic evaluation and health technology assessment: http://www.chepa.org

Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation

An Australian centre for health economics and health services research: **http://www.chere.uts.edu.au/index.html**

Health Economics Information Resources

A self-study course by Moira Napper: **http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/edu/healthecon**

Institute of Health Economics (IHE)

Canadian research in health economics, outcomes, policy research, and health technology assessment: **http://www.ihe.ca**

International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR)

An international organization promoting the science of pharmacoeconomics and health outcomes research: **http://www.ispor.org**. Includes a section: Pharmacoeconomic Guidelines Around the World: **http://www.ispor.org/ PEguidelines/index.asp**. ISPOR also offers a distance learning program ($$$): **http://www.ispor.org/distancelearning/index.asp**

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)

Abstracts of working papers from the NBER healthcare and health programs (($$$) apply for the full text of working papers): **http://www.nber.org**

Further Information

Methodology in HTA

Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions (formerly the Reviewers' Handbook)

The official guide for conducting Cochrane systematic reviews: **http://www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook/**

Health Technology Assessment Handbook

A guide to undertaking a health technology assessment produced by the Danish Centre for Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment (DACEHTA): **http://sst.dk/Applikationer/cemtv/publikationer/docs/ Metodehaandbog/MethodologyHandbook180601.pdf**

Introduction to Mini-HTA

Danish Centre for Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment (DACEHTA) has developed a decision support tool, which can be used by hospital managements when contemplating the introduction of new health technology: **http://www.inahta.org/upload/HTA_resources/Toolbox_ Introduction_mini_HTA.pdf**

HTA 101

Introduction to Health Care Technology Assessment (by Cliff Goodman):
An overview of HTA, including the methods and steps involved in conducting
an assessment: **http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hta101/ta101_c1.html**

Undertaking Systematic Reviews of Research on Effectiveness

The UK CRD's guide to commissioning and conducting systematic reviews:
http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/report4.htm

Distance learning in HTA

Applied Health Technology Assessment ($$$)

An introductory course for health care decision makers offered by Hayes Inc.:
http://www.hayesinc.com/training-ahta.php

The Ulysses Project

International Master's Program in Health Technology Assessment and
Management ($$$): Not exactly distance learning – students register at one
of four participating universities (in Rome, Barcelona, Ottawa, or Montreal),
and take courses at these centres: **http://www.ulyssesprogram.net/**

Building Critical Appraisal Skills

Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine)

Resources on EBM for students, teachers and clinicians; including
an EBM toolbox and levels of evidence and grades of recommendation:
http://www.cebm.net

Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (University Health Network, Toronto)

Resources on how to practice and teach evidence-based medicine:
http://www.cebm.utoronto.ca

Critical Appraisal Skills Programme

CASP provides online critical appraisal skills training, tools and resources:
http://www.phru.nhs.uk/Pages/PHD/CASP.htm

Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Workshop

Coordinated by the McMaster University, Department of Clinical
Epidemiology and Biostatistics, the longest running critical appraisal workshop
in North America: **http://clarity.mcmaster.ca**

Evidence-Based Medicine Tool Kit

Online learning resource for evidence-based medicine/critical appraisal produced by the University of Alberta, Canada: **http://www.ebm.med.ualberta.ca/**

How to Read a Paper

A series of articles (also issued as a book) by Trisha Greenhalgh on appraising various types of studies in the medical literature: **http://www.health.library.mcgill.ca/ebm/greenhalgh.htm**

Putting Evidence Into Practice Workshop

The University of Alberta & Capital Health Authority's Evidence-Based Practice Centre workshop, held annually in Edmonton, Alberta: **http://www.pep.ualberta.ca**

Users' Guides to Evidence-Based Practice

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) users' guides to appraising the medical literature: **http://www.cche.net/usersguides/main.asp**

Knowledge Transfer and Research Utilization

Knowledge Utilization Database (KU-UC)

Compiled by the CHSRF/CIHR Chair on Knowledge Transfer and Innovation, at the Université Laval, this site indexes information on knowledge utilization, innovation, health policy and management: **http://kuuc.chair.ulaval.ca**

Knowledge Utilization Resource Guide

A guide produced by the Knowledge Utilization and Policy Implementation (KUPI) research program based at the University of Alberta: **http://www.nursing.ualberta.ca/kusp/Resources_Guide.htm**

Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF)

The Knowledge Transfer and Exchange branch of CHSRF includes a glossary of terms and a database of tools to encourage research use in organizations: **http://www.chsrf.ca/knowledge_transfer**

Health Research Transfer Network of Alberta (RTNA)

Publications on research transfer, links to learning opportunities and a wiki on the basics of research transfer: **http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/rtna**

Research Unit for Research Utilisation (RURU)

Publications on research transfer and impact assessment, and a searchable database of relevant literature: **http://www.ruru.ac.uk**

Listservs

Listservs can be a useful way to learn of new research or share questions and discussions with colleagues. Follow the instructions provided at each site to sign up for these HTA-related listservs.

Cochrane Collaboration Electronic Newsletter (ccinfo-list)

http://www.cochrane.org/newslett/ccinfo/index.htm

Evidence-Based Health

http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/EVIDENCE-BASED-HEALTH.html

International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA)

For INAHTA members only: http://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/inahta

SPIG-IR listserv

The HTAi Information Resources Group listserv for those interested in HTA information sources and services: http://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/spig-ir

Literature Searching Guides

Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions, Updated February 2008. Chapter 6 – Searching for studies

Contains information on sources to search when conducting a systematic review, how to design your search strategy, and tips for managing references: http://www.mrc-bsu.cam.ac.uk/cochrane/handbook/index.htm#chapter_6/6_searching_for_studies.htm

Finding Studies for Systematic Reviews: A Checklist for Researchers

A guide to systematic literature searching produced by the UK CRD: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/revs.htm

E-text on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Information Resources

An electronic textbook, written by HTA researchers and librarians from around the world. This e-text provides in-depth coverage of methods and sources used in searching for HTA information: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/archive//2060905/nichsr/ehta/ehta.html

Evidence-based Resource Sheets: for health professionals and consumers

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CCN/C), the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), and the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care (CTFPHC) collaboratively produce these evidence-based resource sheets for three audiences – health professionals, consumers, and health policy planners: **http://www.ctfphc.org/Resource%20 sheets/resource_sheets.htm**

InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group

Search filter resources compiled by a group of information professionals working on technology assessments for the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE): **http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/intertasc**

Open Access (Free) Electronic Journals

There is currently a shift within electronic publishing that has resulted in some journals becoming Open Access (freely available online). The list below is a sample of web sites that link to collections of freely available electronic journals. It is also very effective to search for the title of an article (place quotation marks around it) in Google to see if you can find a link to the full text.

BioMed Central
http://www.biomedcentral.com

—— *BMC Medicine,*
—— *BMC Health Services Research*

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
http://www.doaj.org

Free Medical Journals.com
http://www.freemedicaljournals.com

Highwire Press
Free access after 6 month embargo period has passed:
http://highwire.stanford.edu/

Open Medicine
A peer reviewed, independent, open access medical journal:
http://www.openmedicine.ca

Public Library of Science (PLoS)

http://www.plos.org

—— *PLoS Clinical Trials*
—— *PLoS Medicine*

PubMed Central (PMC)

http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov

Free biomedical literature resources compiled by the US National Library of Medicine

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline/freehealthlit.html

Vortal

HTAi – Information Resources Group

Launched in 2005, this "vertical, subject specific portal" of useful HTA web links is compiled by HTA librarians from around the world.

Available at: http://www.htai.org/vortal

Comments on this guide are welcome and can be sent to

Liz Dennett, Research Librarian
e-mail: ldennett@ihe.ca

or to

Trish Chatterley, Research Librarian
e-mail: pchatterley@ihe.ca

or to

info@ihe.ca

Notes

Notes

Notes

■ IHE Publications

- Cost-effectiveness in the detention of syphilis
- The use and benefit of teleoncology services
- Screening newborns for hearing
- Screening newborns for cystic fibrosis
- The use of nitric oxide in acute respiratory distress syndrome
- Routine preoperative tests – are they necessary?
- Consensus statement on self-monitoring in diabetes
- Consensus statement on how to prevent low birth weight
- Evidence of benefit from telemental health: a systematic review
- Economics of childhood immunization in Canada
- Health technology assessment on the net
- Mental health economic statistics
- World in your pocket
- The use of videoconferencing for mental health services
- Risk assessment tools for predicting spousal violence
- Using fetal fibronectin to diagnose pre-term labour
- Air ambulance with advanced life support

Health Technology on the Net focuses on Internet sites,
particularly those that may be useful for people involved
in health care in Alberta, Canada.

IHE

**INSTITUTE OF
HEALTH ECONOMICS**
ALBERTA CANADA